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# *Friends of Michigan History, Inc.*

## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC**

### **Meeting Minutes**

### **Michigan Historical Museum**

### **Lansing, Michigan**

**September 10, 2007**

### **Call to Order**

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:04 AM.

*Board Members Present:* Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stillman, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

*Board Members Absent:* David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, and Tom Shawver.

*Board Members Excused:* Adriana Greci Green and Tom Shawver.

*Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present:* Chris Danasack.

*Guests Present:* Della Miller (Walker Tavern) and Mark Harvey (State Archivist).

### **Approval of Agenda**

Requests were made to add a Museum Exhibit bill for \$142.93 and a reaffirmation of a previous Executive Committee approval for payment of an extra \$0.74 for the Jackson Civil War Muster Ribbons and \$155 for the Friends envelopes.

***A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda by adding the following items:***

#### ***1. Under Presentation of Bills:***

***A. Museum Exhibit bill for \$142.93***

***B. Reaffirmation of previous Executive Board votes on Ribbon and envelope bills***

#### ***2. Under New Business***

***A. Conservation of Historical Photographs by Mark Harvey***

***B. Telephonic Meeting request by Adriana Grecia Green***

***C. Walker Tavern Update by Dilla Miller***

***D. Oral History Request by Geneva Wiskemann***

***The motion passed.***

### **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the previous Board meeting; motion passed.***

### **President Report**

President Spaniola briefly discussed the tour of Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit and the Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster. He indicated that most of his observations will be discussed further later in the meeting. He did indicate that

## FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2007

Page 2

### President Report (continued)

there was a need to redo the display board in order for it to reflect more about who the Friends of Michigan History are and what we do. He also expressed concern that before the Board agrees to take the display out into the field again that Board members agree to commit to a staffing schedule.

### Treasurer Report

<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>08-01-07</b>	<b>12,980.97</b>
DEPOSIT	08-31-07	
FOMH	657.60	
Fayette	<u>109.80</u>	
	767.40	+ 767.40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>= 13,747.37</b>
<b>CASHED CHECKS</b>		
# 1319	EG Graphics (ME)	459.00
# 1320	Dancizak (ME)	92.13
# 1321	Dancizak (ME)	169.98
# 1323	Old Country (ME)	<u>697.75</u>
	1418.86	<b>-1,418.86</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>08-31-07</b>	<b>= 12,329.51</b>
<b>UNCASHED CHECKS</b>		
# 1322	D. McComas (Ribbons)	825.74
# 1324	E. Weiport (ME)	<u>10.58</u>
	836.32	
<b>ALLOCATED FUNDS</b>		
Document Conservation	1,000.00	
Museum Exhibit	1,290.75	
Fayette	<u>109.80</u>	
	2,400.59	<b>- 3,236.97</b>
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>	<b>8-31-07</b>	<b>= 9,092.60</b>

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.***

### Presentation of Bills

A. \$155.00 for 4,000 #10 Envelopes with Friends' Return Address. This was approved previously for payment by the Board's Executive Committee on August 22, 2007.

## FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2007

Page 3

### Presentation of Bills (continued)

B. \$95.40 Reimbursement to Keith Harrison for 1,000 Wayne State University Press Discount Flyers for placement into Friend's Brochure for Jackson Civil War Muster.

C. \$0.74 extra for the Jackson Civil War Muster Ribbons. This was approved previously for payment by the Board's Executive Committee on August 22, 2007.

D. \$142.93 in bills associated with the Museum's Hunting Exhibit. This is part of the \$4,000 previously approved by the Board on July 9, 2007.

***A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of the bills listed as items A through D under Presentation of Bills; motion passed.***

### Museum Report

Chris Danasack reported that the Museum was currently involved in moving all of the state artifact collection to a new, state of the art facility for warehousing and protection. The process is quite involved with all artifacts having to be inventoried out of their current location, moved, and then inventoried into the new facility.

In response to a question regarding the Friends' newsletter, Chris indicated the Friend's either can develop an insert to be placed inside the *Front & Center* newsletter or can produce a separate newsletter. In addition, in response to a question regarding the Friends' Display, he indicated that a new display header could be made in-house if the Friends can provide the blank plastic. Finally, in regards to a third topic, he indicated that arrangements have been made to have the Veterans Day program at the Museum.

### Committee Reports

A. *Map Preservation Committee*. Mark Harvey asked if the \$1,000 previously set aside for map protection by the Friends could be used to purchase protective folders for the maps. He was informed that it could.

B. *2007 Veterans Day Program Committee*. President Spaniola reported that the speaker for the Veterans Day Program has been confirmed. A \$200 speaking fee most likely will need to be paid (this will be addressed at the October Friends meeting). Questions were raised regarding the status of the following items: (1) Has the Bagpiper been invited, (2) Have the donuts and cider been ordered, (3) Have invitations been sent out to the veterans groups, (4) Has the event been posted on the website, (4) Were ribbons going be made this year, and (5) In lieu of a speaker fee, has a gif for the speaker been ordered.

C. *Board Nominating Committee*. Keith Pohl reported that Morris Thomas, Ralph Simms, and Larry Griffin were interested in becoming Board members.

***It was moved and seconded to add Morris Thomas, Ralph Simms and Larry Griffin to the Board pending our receipt of their acceptance and their attendance at the next Board meeting (October 8, 2007); motion passed.***

A letter will be sent to each of the individuals by Keith Pohl.

## FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2007

Page 4

### Committee Reports (continued)

D. *Membership Committee*. It was reported that at the Jackson Civil War event, 1,000 reenactors received the Friends' membership brochure, a flyer for a 20 percent discount on all Wayne State University Bookstore books and the Civil War Muster participation ribbon. In addition, names were obtained from the Friends' Display area from the public who were interested in the Friends and also in receiving a copy of *Michigan History*. Arrangements will need to be made to get enough copies of *Michigan History* to send to these individuals. The Friends Display Board was discussed and ways to make it more pertinent to the Friends. As previously mentioned in these minutes a new header is needed. Also, pictures from Friends' programs need to be added to the display.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee*. No report.

F. *Grants Committee*. No report.

### Old Business

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola briefly reported on his continued efforts to have the state establish a Michigan History license plate. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is pending.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. Despite a request and agreement to try and find an attorney to prepare a group exemption application, it was related that nothing had been done on this since the July meeting. Geneva Wiskemann indicated that she could provide the name of a person who could be consulted for advice but most likely would not actually prepare the application. Keith Harrison indicated that he certainly will follow up with the person but that will fall short of what the Board wanted to have done. No one on the Board has the time to put the application together and that, in addition to the needed advise, what we really wanted was an attorney to do this for us.

C. *Historic Fort Wayne Donation*. At the August Board meeting, it was discussed to provide the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition with a \$250 donation to help in its restoration work on the Fort. At the time, it was decided to hold off on the motion until the September meeting.

***A motion was made and seconded to provide the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition with a donation of \$250 in furtherance of its restoration work at the Fort; motion passed.***

Keith Harrison, as the newly appointed Friends' Liaison to the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition (see August Board meeting minutes), will prepare the letter on behalf of the Board and send it to the Board Treasurer to be sent with the donation. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Mayor of Detroit.

D. *Historic Fort Wayne Fund Raiser Program*. At the August Board meeting, the Board discussed several ways to assist the Fort Wayne Coalition in its efforts to rejuvenate Historic Fort Wayne, including hosting a book-signing (*Images of America: Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne* by James Conway and David Jamroz, Published by Arcadia Publishing) and power-point

## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 2007**

**Page 5**

### **Old Business (continued)**

presentation program on the Fort at the Museum. The Board still needs to check to see if the book is in the Museum Book Store.

E. *Other State History Programs Fund Raisers.* At the August Board meeting, the Board discussed several other state historical programs that it could help promote including, the Detroit Soup Kitchen Program, Steam Tractor History (in conjunction with Michigan State University's annual Agricultural Expo (Charles Seeley was requested to look into the feasibility of this), and the Train Wreck that occur in the Adrian, Michigan area. This still needs to be followed up on by the Board.

### **New Business**

A. *Conservation of Historical Photographs.* State Archivist Mark Harvey indicated that the state is currently in the process of conserving Oldsmobile, Michigan State University, and Lansing Business historical photographs and will need support in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,000 to do this. He indicated that he would like to make a presentation to the Board at the October meeting. It was indicated that his presentation would be added to the agenda for the October Board meeting.

B. *Telephonic Board Attendance.* In an email to the Board, Adriana Grecia Green requested that the Board look into the possibility of arranging for telephonic attendance by Board members who cannot physically come to a Board meeting. President Spaniola indicated that the Michigan Historical Foundation has equipment for this and he would look into the possibility of the Board using the equipment for its meetings.

C. *Walker Tavern Update.* Dilla Miller provided the Board with an update of the various programs and activities taking place at Walker Tavern.

D. *Oral History Support Request.* Geneva Wiskemann provided the Board with an overview of an upcoming *Oral History for Michiganians 2007 Conference* scheduled for November 10, 2007 at the Museum. The one-day program will provide the following sessions:

1. Highlights of Oral History in Michigan,
2. Urbanization and Migration in Michigan's Black Community,
3. Involving Students and Meeting Standards,
4. Michigan Works: Qualitative Research and Presentation,
5. The Veterans History Project – Shared Memory, and
6. Roundtable discussion focusing on Meeting Criteria, financing, Transcription, Internet Publication and Deposit of Oral History Productions.

She indicated that the Board had supported the Oral history program in the past and provided the Board some options in terms of specific areas of support that would be needed by the conference.

**FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 2007**

**Page 6**

***A motion was made and seconded to provide a \$500.00 donation for food and beverage at the November 10, 1007 Oral History for Michiganians 2007 Conference; motion passed.***

It was indicated that the Board could have a membership display at the Conference.  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectively submitted,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

**The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, October 8, 2007, in Lansing.**